

Four Recruits to Greek Tragedy



Edith Wynne Matthison.

Lillah McCarthy.

GRANVILLE BARKER will try in various college theatres of this country during the present summer an experiment which he has previously undertaken with success in England. He will at Harvard, at Yale and in various other educational institutions undertake to perform Greek tragedies in the manner, or rather approximately in the manner, he has done these same plays in England. Lillah McCarthy, who is Mrs. Barker in private life, is to be one of the actresses associated with him. Others will be Edith Wynne Matthison, Gladys Hanson and Chrystal Herne. In this quartet he has four remarkably handsome women who are not only beautiful but of a statuesque type of beauty adapted to the needs of classic tragedy.

After the production of "Iphigenia in Tauris" at the immense amphitheatre known as the Yale Bowl there were performances at the other universities, such as Harvard, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania and the College of the City of New York. In addition to the dedication of the municipal stadium Mr. Barker gave a performance of "The Trojan Women."

Preparations for this season of Greek tragedy have been most elaborate. There were rehearsals in the various National Guard armories of this city before the players went to New Haven for practice in the great arena there. Mr. Barker has a portable stage designed by Norman Wilkinson which he will carry from one college to another. Gilbert Murray's translation of the tragedies of Euripides will be used. In addition to the women who will play the four leading parts there will be in the company Alma Kruger, who recently distinguished herself in the revival of "John Gabriel Borkman"; Mary Forbes, Lionel Braham, who was the gigantic slave in "Androcles and the Lion"; Ian MacLaren, who was also in the company; Leonard Wiley, Claude Rains and Philip Merrivale.

Miss McCarthy has acted before in performances of these tragedies given under the direction of her husband in London, and Miss Matthison is also familiar with the acting of these tragedies. Indeed, it was this actress that Prof. Murray selected to act the leading role in "The Trojan Women"

when his translation of the tragedy was given at the Court Theatre in London in 1904. Two years later she was brought back to the Court Theatre to act the role of the daughter in "Electra" and again distinguished herself as an actress in the plays of Euripides. Miss McCarthy was sufficiently statuesque as the indifferent patrician in "Androcles and the Lion," but has never been seen here in any other classical role. She has, however, become accustomed to the draperies of the kind she will wear in this series of plays, as she made her first appearance in this country with Wilson Barrett in "The Sign of the Cross" and was Calpurnia in "Julius Caesar" at the Haymarket Theatre in London.

Miss Hanson, who is a fine type of

Gladys Hanson.

heroic classic beauty, has usually been seen here in modern plays and her last appearance was made in "The Dragon's Claw" at the New Amsterdam Theatre, when she enacted the wife of the American Minister in China. Before that she was the heiress in "The Governor's Lady" and had for several years before his death appeared always in the support of Kyle Belieu.

It is Chrystal Herne alone who has had no traffic with the classic drama. She is a beautiful vision of young womanhood and in her severely classic draperies ought to be as striking as her three associates. Miss McCarthy and Miss Hanson are to add to the decorativeness of the scenes by their severely classic perfection of outline. Miss Matthison is of a gentler and

Chrystal Herne.

more womanly but still as noble a type, and Miss Herne supplies the impression of suppliant and tender womanhood.

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